

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
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AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR
AMCONSUL ADANA
USMISSION USUN
USMISSION USNATO
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST
USDOCOSOUTH
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY
USNMR SHAPE

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PEPR, MASS, TU, US
SUBJ: CHANGE IN TURKISH PERCEPTIONS OF EMBARGO ISSUE

1. SINCE PRIMIN ECEVIT'S VISIT TO THE US AND THE
PUBLICIZING OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORT TO LIFT THE
US ARMS EMBARGO, WE HAVE NOTICED A DEFINITE CHANGE IN
THE NATURE OF THE COMMENTS OF OUR POLITICAL CONTACTS
ON US-TURKISH RELATIONS. ON THE BASIS OF OUR CONTACTS
WITH POLITICIANS REPRESENTING ALL FOUR MAJOR POLITICAL
PARTIES AND INDEPENDENTS, THIS CHANGE APPEARS TO HOLD
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ACROSS MOST OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM. WHEREAS BEFORE
NEARLY EVERY POLITICAL CONTACT SEEMED TO INVOLVE A
DE RIGEUR LECTURE CONDEMNING THE ARMS EMBARGO, THE
TURKS NOW OBSERVE THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS COMMITTED
TO THE LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO AND IS MAKING A DETERMINED
EFFORT TOWARDS THAT END.

2. TWO OFFICE-HOLDERS FROM ECEVIT'S REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP), WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY ESPOUSED THE RPP-LEFT VIEW THAT THE EMBARGO SHOULD BE MAINTAINED AS A MEANS OF FORCING TURKEY TO ABANDON ITS OVER-DEPENDENCE ON THE US, APPEARED TO HAVE ABANDONED THAT VIEW. IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFF, ONE EXPLICITLY AND ONE IMPLICITLY EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION AT THE LIEKLY LIFTING OF THE EMBARGO AND BOTH STATED THAT TURKEY'S BEST INTERESTS CALLED FOR CONTINUATION OF CLOSE MILITARY COOPERATION WITH THE US.

3. ANOTHER STRIKING FEATURE OF RECENT CONTACTS HAS BEEN INCREASING EXPRESSIONS OF THE REALIZATION THAT TURKEY MUST MAKE AN ACTIVE EFFORT ABROAD, ESPECIALLY IN THE US, TO EXPLAIN ITS POSITION AND DEFEND ITS INTERESTS BEFORE FOREIGN PUBLIC OPINION. UNTIL RECENTLY MOST OFFICIALS AND POLITICIANS TOOK THE POSITION THAT (A) PROPAGANDA AND SELF PUBLICITY WERE AGAINST THE TURKISH CHARACTER AND COULD NOT BE SERIOUSLY ATTEMPTED BY ANY TURKISH GOVERNMENT, AND THAT (B) SINCE TURKEY WAS THE WRONGED PARTY AND THE US WAS THE OFFENDER, IT WAS THE JOB OF THE USG TO SEE THAT CONGRESS CHANGED ITS STAND. NOW, PERHAPS REFLECTING A PERCEPTION THAT ECEVIT'S RECENT EFFORTS TO PRESENT THE TURKISH CASE WERE SUCCESSFUL, THE VIEW IS BEING WIDELY EXPRESSED THAT TURKEY HAS BEEN MAKING A MISTAKE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN NOT FOLLOWING THE GREEK EXAMPLE IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC RELATIONS.
SPIERS

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